

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached six sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 110-117. The first sheet, which includes Fig. 110, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 110. The second sheet, which includes Fig. 111, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 111. The third sheet, which includes Fig. 112, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 112. The fourth sheet, which includes Fig. 113, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 113. The fifth sheet, which includes Fig. 114, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 114. The sixth sheet, which includes Figs. 115-117, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 115-117.

Attachment: 6 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 21-34 are pending in this case. Claims 1 and 25-29 are amended and new Claims 30-34 are added by the present amendment. Amended Claims 1 and 25-29 and new Claims 30-34 are supported by the original claims and drawings.<sup>1</sup> Amended Claims 1 and 25-29 and new Claims 30-34 add no new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to as failing to comply with MPEP §608.02(g). The specification was objected to for informalities. Claims 1, 21-24, 26, and 28-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,673,477, hereinafter "Hattori") in view of McQuade et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,416,429, hereinafter "McQuade"). Claims 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori in view of McQuade and Subramanian (U.S. Patent No. 5,382,898).

Initially, applicants and applicants' representatives thank Examiner Tang for the interview held on November 15, 2004 to discuss the present case. During the interview, differences between the claimed invention and the cited references were discussed in detail. The Examiner agreed that the claims as amended herein overcome the rejection of record.

With regard to the objection to the drawings, Figures 110-117 are amended to include the legend "Background Art." No new matter has been added. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is believed to be overcome.

With regard to the objection to the specification, the specification is amended to correct the noted informalities. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, the objection to the specification is believed to be overcome.

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<sup>1</sup>See e.g., Figure 4.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 1 as unpatentable over Hattori in view of McQuade, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites a contact probe comprising:

- a first film having a first side and a second side;
- a plurality of wiring patterns formed on the first side of the first film;
- a second film having a first side and a second side, said first side of said second film formed on an opposite side of said plurality of wiring patterns from said first film, each wiring pattern having a front end portion projecting from the first and second films so as to form contact pins;
- a first metal layer provided on the second side of said first film; and
- a second metal layer provided on the second side of the second film, said first metal layer coextensive with said second metal layer.

The amendment to Claim 1 is supported, for example, by Figures 1 and 4, which show a probe assembly 1B including a pair of metal layers 500 coextensive with each other and with a pair of films 2B.

Hattori describes probe unit including a resin base 3 and ultrathin metal wires 4.<sup>2</sup> There is no teaching or suggestion to provide a metal layer on a side of the resin base 3.

McQuade describes a probe assembly including an upper conductive ply 44, a dielectric adhesive film 45, and a trace 46.<sup>3</sup> In the embodiment shown in Figure 11, two probe assemblies are stacked after being offset. Thus, ground plane layers 92 and 100 are not coextensive. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion in McQuade for a first metal layer coextensive with a second metal layer, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, since neither Hattori nor McQuade, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a first metal layer coextensive with a second metal layer, it is respectfully submitted

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<sup>2</sup>See Hattori, column 4, lines 40-50 and Figures 1 and 2.

<sup>3</sup>See McQuade, column 1, lines 1-17 and Figures 11.

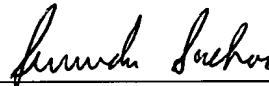
that Claim 1, and Claims 21-34 dependent therefrom, is patentable over any combination of Hattori and McQuade.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 25 and 27 as unpatentable over Hattori in view of McQuade and further in view of Subramanian, it is noted that Claims 25 and 27 are dependent from Claim 1, and thus are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Subramanian does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Hattori and McQuade. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 25 and 27 are patentable over any combination of Hattori, McQuade, and Subramanian.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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